CHAPTER V.—Organization of Village Inspection and Relief

45. *General.*—The objects of village inspection are as follows:—

(*a*) to ascertain by personal inquiry the real condition of the people, to judge to what extent migration of the able-bodied in search of labour has taken place and can be further encouraged, and how far the measures of relief introduced are effecting their purpose, and to see that all who really require relief in any of the approved forms are able to get it;

(*b*) to provide an effective machinery for the distribution of gratuitous relief at the houses of the people, and for the supervision of village works, where such works may be required;

(*c*) to organize as far as possible with the aid of charitable funds village industries such as rope-making, spinning yarn and wool, biddi-making, &c., in which decrepits and children can be usefully engaged and enabled to earn something towards their maintenance.

For these purposes, affected district may, in case of scarcity or famine, be divided into circles of convenient size for relief administration, each circle being placed under a Circle Inspector. Over the Circle Inspectors may be placed Relief Head Karkuns with duties as described below who will be subordinate to the Mamlatdar and the Sub-Divisional Officer.

46. *Inspecting Officers.*—Village inspection shall be conducted under the general direction of the Collector by—

(*a*) the existing staff of village officers;

(*b*) the Circle Inspectors, permanent and additional;

(*c*) the taluka Mamlatdars;

(*d*) the Relief Head Karkuns;

(*e*) the Sub-Divisional Officers.

47. *Duties of Village Officers.*—The village officers shall deal with all cases of destitution in their villages as follows:—

(*a*) any person able to work and willing to migrate shall be given information regarding centres where labour is to be found so far as available or shall be made to go to the nearest scarcity or famine relief work, when such works have been opened;

(*b*) any person entitled under section 147 to relief in the village shall be entered on the village gratuitous relief registers, and, if found in a bad physical condition owing to want of food, may be given immediate relief pending the next visit of the Circle Inspector;

(*c*) any starving wanderer found within the village boundaries shall, if able to go, be provided with an order of admission to the nearest poor-house and if necessary shall be given food for his journey; or, if unable to go, shall be placed temporarily on the village gratutious relief register.

The village officers shall never, during the prevalence of scarcity or famine, absent themselves from their villages without leave.

48. *Relief Circles.*—For the purposes of village inspection, the Collector *may* divide each taluka into relief circles, with fixed head-quarters for each; in doing so he shall split up the existing charges of permanent Circle Inspectors as may be necessary and shall apportion the relief circles thus constituted among the permanent Circle Inspectors and additional Circle Inspectors specially appointed. The circles should be small enough to allow the Circle Inspector to inspect every village once a week at least.

49. *Duties of Circle Inspector.*—The Circle Inspector shall inspect each village in his circle not less than once a week and keep himself thoroughly acquainted with the condition of all the inhabitants. It shall be his special duty—

(*a*) to publish in every village such information as may be available regarding centres where labour is required, and to encourage all able-bodied workers, who are capable of doing so, to migrate to such centres;

(*b*) to discover the amount of distress existing in the villages; for this purpose his visits should generally be made without notice; on arrival, he should at once call the village officers and village committees and through them collect all the recipients of gratuitous relief (except the bed-ridden and *pardanishin*), all destitute strangers who may be in the village and as many others of the villagers as possible; meanwhile, he should make a house-to-house inspection, which should be especially thorough in the low-caste quarters, and should make special inquiries as to *pardanishin* women, if any;

(*c*) to deal with all cases of destitution; for this purpose he should follow generally the instructions laid down for village officers in section 47; he should make known where labour is required by private employers, factories, &c., and the wages obtainable at such places, and when scarcity or famine relief works have been opened in the affected areas, notify the localities in which they are situated and make persons in the district go to them;

(*d*) to organize with the aid of charitable funds and the assistance of private individuals village industries such as rope-making, spinning of yarn and wool, biddi-making, &c, and make all decrepits and children, who are capable of doing so, work in such industries;

(*e*) to direct and strictly control the distribution of gratuitous relief in the villages; for this purpose he should give the village officers and committees detailed instructions on all points; he should strike off the gratuitous relief register any persons whom he finds to be ineligible and add the names of any whom he finds to be eligible under section 147; he should carefully examine the accounts of the grain or cash dole in the manner described in section 153 to ensure the detection of any fraud or error; and a memorandum should be prepared detailing any errors found which the Circle Inspector will submit through the taluka Mamlatdar who will make a special report to the Sub-Divisional Officer in the event of detection of fraud; he should satisfy himself that the village officers and members of the village committee are carrying out their duties; he should inquire into any complaints as to the quantity or quality of the grain distributed and test the grain dealers' weights;

(*f*) to examine the death registers, noting the results in his diary, and at once report any unusual sickness or mortality in any village;

(*g*) to inspect the drinking water supply and take steps to have it treated with potassium permanganate immediately if there is any case of suspected cholera in the village or neighbourhood, and see that the wells are properly protected from pollution as far as possible;

(*h*) to help as required in the management of village works, kitchens and poor-houses;

(*i*) to keep a careful diary for submission through the taluka Mamlatdar to the Sub-Divisional Officer once a week, for information and return with orders.

50. *Appointment of Relief Head Karkuns.*—Relief Head Karkuns shall be appointed by the Collector as required for each taluka, and shall be entitled to have a special peon appointed to travel with them. They shall be directly subordinate to the taluka Mamlatdars.

51. *Duties of Relief Head Karkuns.*—The general duties of a Relief Head Karkun shall be as follows:—

(*a*) He shall move about actively in village inspection, supervise the Circle Inspectors as regards their accounts and returns, as well as in their inspection work and administer the provisions of Chapters VIII and IX under the general control of the Mamlatdar.

(*b*) He shall inspect all scarcity works conducted by the Revenue Department, kitchens, and poor-houses within the area under his charge.

(*c*) As deputed from time to time, he shall open village works, again close them, or arrange to draft labourers from them to other scarcity works or famine relief works.

(*d*) In inspecting villages he shall be generally guided by the directions laid down for Circle Inspectors in section 49; he shall also examine the registers of births and deaths, vaccination, small-pox and cholera in the villages, and give attention to the sources of water supply, their protection and disinfection with potassium permanganate when required, the sanitary condition of the villages and the state of the burial grounds; and, in his diaries, he shall report the amount of migration to and from each village, the state of returned emigrants and the presence or the prospect of any special form of distress.

(*e*) He shall give special attention to the state of the idle or disheartened poor, who, though able to work, refuse to leave their villages.

NOTE.—These must be dealt with strictly; only those who are in danger of starving and cannot leave the village are to be fed in it; and of those who come back from places where private employment is available or from scarcity or famine relief works, those only are to be fed who are unable to work. It should be borne in mind that to those who have wilfully abandoned private employment or scarcity or famine relief works, relief should not be given, unless it is indispensable for the preservation of their lives. At the same time the children of such persons as those described here should receive consideration, and if found in a reduced state, should be relieved in poor-houses or village kitchens.

(*f*) He shall keep careful diaries and submit copies of them week by week through the Mamlatdar to the Sub-Divisional Officer, who shall examine them carefully and return them promptly through the Mamlatdar with remarks and orders on all matters which appear to need urgent attention.

52. *Duties of the Mamlatdars.*—During scarcity or famine the general duties of the Mamlatdars in connection with relief measures shall be of the same nature as those prescribed for the Relief Head Karkuns in section 51. In addition they shall have the following special powers and duties:—

(*a*) to authorize the Circle Inspectors to give, if necessary, to distressed persons proceeding to famine relief works or migrating on foot in search of labour the dependent's allowance for the journey in grain, cash or cooked food at the rate of one day's allowance for each 12 miles of the journey. This allowance shall be disbursed in the same way as gratuitous relief is distributed in the village, the names of the recipients being shown in the village gratuitous relief lists for the days on which the allowance is given;

(*b*) to fix the price to be paid for grain supplied for the village grain dole and for village kitchens;

(*c*) to recommend action by the Collector in relief of village servants under sections 160 and 161.

53. *Sub-Divisional Officers.*—The Sub-Divisional Officer shall ordinarily be invested with summary magisterial powers, if not already exercising such powers, and shall so far as possible be relieved still further from the pressure of magisterial duties by the investiture of Subordinate Judges in his sub-division with First Class magisterial powers.

CHAPTER VI.—RULES FOR MANAGEMENT OF SCARCITY WORKS*

54. *Scarcity works when to be opened.*—Scarcity works as defined in sub-section (*a*) of section 10 may be opened when scarcity conditions have been declared to exist in a district according to the conditions of sub-section (*b*) of section 33 of this Code. They shall be conducted in accordance with the rules contained in this chapter of the Code.

(i) *Rules for Management of District Local Board and Municipal Scarcity Works*

55. *Management of District Local Board and Municipal Scarcity Works.*—The following rules shall be observed in the management of District Local Board and Municipal scarcity works:—

(*a*) they shall be conducted departmentally by the District Local Board or Municipal staffs, subject to the general rules contained in part (iv) of this chapter, which are applicable to all scarcity works;

* For detailed instructions, *see* Appendix IV.